

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-02

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FOR IOP/M

ARA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

1. EL COMERCIO, LEADING QUITO DAILY SAID IN AN EDITORIAL
APRIL 16 PRESIDENT CARTER HAD "BURIED THE MONROE DOCTRINE" BY
STATING THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS COULD BE SOLVED ONLY ON A GLOBAL
RATHER THAN A REGIONAL, OR INTER-AMERICAN, SCALE. THIS IS
"HEALTHY," THE EDITORIAL SAID, IN FORCING NATIONS OF THE
HEMISPHERE TO TAKE A REALISTIC VIEW OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH
WASHINGTON.

2. "WITH THE PRAGMATIC VIEWPOINT OF PRESIDENT CARTER, IT IS
OBLIGATORY FOR OUR COUNTRIES TO RECONSIDER THEIR
POSITIONS. WE HAVE STATED EARLIER THAT IN ORDER TO PUT OUR
FUTURE IN ORDER, WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT IS NOT WHAT THE UNITED
STATES CAN 'OFFER,' BUT RATHER THE CONDUCT OF THE LATIN
AMERICAN COUNTRIES. MORE THAN FOREIGN AID AND LOANS, OUR SOCIO-
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPENDS ON OBTAINING FAIR PRICES FOR THE
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PROUDUCT OF THE WORK AND INVESTMENTS IN THE REGION.

3. "A SERIES OF POLICIES HAVE BEEN OUTLINED WHICH DO NOT FIT
THE NEED TO DEFEND PRIME MATERIALS; ONLY PETROLEUM, AT A WORLD LEVEL,
HAS ITS OWN POLICY, THANKS CERTAINLY TO THE POWERFUL INFLUENCE
IT HAS IN THE WORLD ECONOMY AND EVEN IN HUMAN CONDUCT. BUT THERE
ARE PROBLEMS WHICH MUST BE CONFRONTED COLLECTIVELY: COFFEE, BEEF,

BANANAS, TIN, CACAO, COPPER, ETC., ARE PRODUCTS WHICH SUSTAIN THE ECONOMY OF MANY OF OUR COUNTRIES. LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY MUST BE TRANSLATED INTO THE COMMON DEFENSE OF PRICES AND MARKETS, ACCORDING TO THE CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH PRODUCT.

4. "IT IS PRUDENT TO LISTEN TO THE PRACTICAL CRITERIA OF CARTER: A LATIN AMERICAN POLICY MUST PROTECT LATIN AMERICA. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE UNITED STATES, BY DISCARDING ITS 'PRIVATE RELATION' WITH THE COUNTRIES OF OUR AREA -- A FICTION WE HAVE LIVED DURING THE CENTURY -- PUTS US ON THE ROAD WE MUST ALWAYS FOLLOW. ONLY LATIN AMERICA WILL SAVE LATIN AMERICA. IT IS THE MOST PRECISE POSTURE SINCE THE LAUNCHING OF THE EXTINCT MONROE DOCTRINE."

5. AWARD-WINNING COLUMNIST BENJAMIN ORTIZ OF QUITO'S EL TIEMPO ISSUED A SIMILAR CALL FOR LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY. "CERTAINLY LATIN AMERICA FACES A MUCH MORE DIFFICULT POSITION IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET, IN PRIME MATERIALS AS WELL AS IN MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS, WHICH MAKES ALL THE MORE NECESSARY A UNION OF OUR COUNTRIES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR OWN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MECHANISMS. FROM THERE ONE COULD GO ON TO BELIEVE THAT THE OAS DIED A BIT MORE IN THE LATEST CARTER SPEECH, WITH A CLEARER PERSPECTIVE FOR ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA)."

6. ORTIZ ALSO SAID THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION OF SUPPORT FOR COUNTRIES THAT RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS REPRESENTS EITHER "MONUMENTAL INGENUITY OR A PREACHER'S ARDOR, EQUALLY SURPRISING, GIVEN THAT THE MAJORITY OF FIRM ALLIES OF THE UNITED STATES IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE REGION ARE DICTATORSHIPS THAT ARE NOT PRECISELY CHARACTERIZED BY THEIR RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS."

7. HE CONCLUDED: "IN ANY CASE, AN IMPORTANT PART OF PANAMERICANISM HAS DIED."
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